

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8398

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01190

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, US, UK, XO

SUBJECT: (A) DIEGO GARCIA: PREVIOUS PARLIAMENTARY EX-
CHANGE; (B) DISPOSITION OF GAN

REF: STATE 125499 MAY 1975

1. ROBERT COPMACK IN FCO DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS THAT LANGUAGE DEVELOPED AND AGREED UPON (REFTEL) FOR CONTINGENCY USE IN PARLIAMENT LAST MAY WAS IN FACT EMPLOYED BY DEFENSE MINISTER MASON AND OTHER GOVERNMENT MEMBERS. HANSARD PRINTED THE RESPONSES AND EXTRACTS WERE RECORDED IN THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS OF LONDON'S NEWSPAPERS. CORMACK SAID THE EXCHANGES, HOWEVER, DID NOT ATTRACT WIDESPREAD JOURNALISTIC ATTENTION AT THE TIME.

2. ON ANOTHER TOPIC, CORMACK SAID UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IS PREPARED TO BRIEF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON THE OUTCOME OF TALKS JANUARY 19 ON THE DISPOSITION OF HMG'S AIR BASE IN GAN. AS EXPECTED, MALDIVIAN VICE PRESIDENT MANIKU ASSURED PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY BRYNMOR JOHN THAT THE USE OF THE BASE WOULD BE DENIED TO OUTSIDE POWERS AND CONFIRMED THAT THE UK-MALDIVES DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL RUN UNTIL 1986.

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